

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JUSTICE
Senator Garcia, Chair
Senator Martin, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 8, 2025
TIME: 11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
PLACE: *Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building*

MEMBERS: Senator Garcia, Chair; Senator Martin, Vice Chair; Senators Osgood, Polsky, Simon, Smith, Wright, and Yarborough

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	Presentation on Agencies' Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Legislative Budget Requests: Justice Administration: Justice Administrative Commission State Attorneys Public Defenders Regional Conflict Counsels Capital Collateral Regional Counsels Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Department of Juvenile Justice Department of Law Enforcement Commission on Offender Review		Presented
Other Related Meeting Documents			

Justice Administrative Commission



**JAC Legislative Budget Request
2026 Legislative Session**

Justice Administrative Commission

The Justice Administrative Commission (JAC), a state agency created in 1965, provides administrative services to 49 Judicial-Related Offices (JROs) and performs compliance and financial review of billings for services provided by private court-appointed attorneys representing indigent persons and associated due process vendors (court reporters, private investigators, and experts).

In the last fiscal year, JAC processed 327,000+ accounting transactions, including 54,000+ court-appointed attorney and due process vendor invoices, 64,000+ payroll and human resources-related transactions, 10,900+ budgetary transactions, and 558 public records requests. With respect to the state's provision of indigent criminal and civil representation, JAC also contracted with 1,483 registry and indigent for cost attorneys and 646 due process vendors; attended 934 evidentiary hearings for state payment of attorney fees and due process costs; and responded to 13,231 motions for payment of state-funded indigent defense costs. This workload was performed by 93 staff members and a budget of \$12.1 million through its partnership with the Legislature, systemic cross-training of staff, and continuous development and refinement of processes to enhance efficiency, accountability, and customer convenience. It is important to note that JAC exceeds meeting its statutory duties with a budget that represents 0.91 percent of the total appropriations it administers. However, additional resources are needed to continue meeting the agency's statutory requirements to serve our customers, who, in turn, serve the judiciary and the taxpayers of Florida.

JAC's Legislative Budget Request for FY 2026-27 for Executive Leadership aligns with JAC's Vision: To be the model of exemplary state government.

	LBR Issue	General Revenue	Recurring General Revenue	Non-Recurring General Revenue	Salary Rate	FTEs
1	JAC - Florida PALM Readiness	\$ 550,000	\$ -	\$ 550,000	-	-
2	JAC - Florida PALM Implementation	\$ 1,111,779	\$ 1,088,399	\$ 23,380	645,000	9.0
3	JAC - IT Hardware (New Server Solution)	\$ 294,279		\$ 294,279		
4	JAC - IT Software (Renewal of Software)	\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000		
5	Replacement of Motor Vehicles (No GR Impact)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-
	JAC Executive Direction & Support FY 2025-2026 Recurring GR	\$ 12,160,620				
	Percentage Increase for JAC Executive Direction and Support Total Request	17.3%				
	Percentage Increase for JAC Executive Direction and Support Total Recurring	8.95%				
	Total Funds Administered Under Justice Administration	\$1.33 billion				
	Percentage of JAC Increase to Total Funds Administered	0.17%				

Clerks of Court Operations Corporation



**Legislative Budget Request
2026 Legislative Session**

Florida Clerks of the Court Operations Corporation

The Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC) is a legislatively created corporation dedicated to empowering and supporting the 67 County Clerks of Court throughout Florida. We provide essential budget guidance, training, and performance standards to ensure the effective operation of Florida's clerk system.

Our Mission

We ensure fair and equitable resource distribution to Florida's Clerks of Court, enabling them to deliver the critical services that sustain our justice system and serve our communities. Our work is guided by sections 28.35, 28.36, and 28.37 of the Florida Statutes.

Leadership

Under the direction of Tara S. Green, Clay County Clerk of Court and Comptroller and Chair of the CCOC Executive Council, we are committed to transparency, efficiency, and excellence in supporting Florida's court operations.

How We Serve

- Strategic planning and oversight for court-related budget activities
- Development of workload performance standards
- Educational programs and professional training to enhance court operations and procedural knowledge

LBR Request

For FY 2026-27, the 67 Florida Clerks of Court request \$5.5 million reimbursement for filed Injunctions for Protection, Baker Act, Marchman Act, and Sexually Violent Predator Act cases.

In the most recently completed fiscal year, clerks processed:

- Over 50,000 Baker Act cases
- Almost 9,000 Marchman Act cases
- 59 Sexually Violent Predator cases
- And nearly 80,000 injunctions for protection.
- Injunctions range from Domestic Violence to Dating and Sexual Violence situations.

These cases are not optional; they are statutorily required and time sensitive.

The \$5.5 million reimbursement will help sustain the services provided to some of our most vulnerable populations and help ensure their future protection.

Brian Kramer, FPAA Treasurer
State Attorney, 8th Circuit
Presenting

Legislative Budget Presentation



Our thanks goes out to the Legislature for everything that was done last year to support our staff. The Competitive Pay Adjustments, Competitive Area Differential, and Special Pay Adjustments were crucial in reducing turnover and increasing staff retention.

Legislative Budget Priorities

- 1) Underfunded Circuits
- 2) Staffing for 24/25 Criminal Judgeships
- 3) VOCA
- 4) Additional Due Process Funding





Underfunded Circuits - \$35.5 million

An underfunded circuit is a circuit whose actual percentage of general revenue funding is below its general revenue allocation based on the funding formula.



The Funding Formula:

- The FPAA funding formula is comprised of the following factors:
 - population
 - arrests
 - DUI citations
 - and prison admissions for homicide and robbery

How did we get here:

- No prior instances of “truing up.”
- Inconsistent population growth
- Funding outside of the formula



Staffing for Added Judges



Staffing for Added Judges - \$8.7 million

- In FY24/25, the legislature provided 14 additional “criminal” judgeships.
- For the anticipated 14 Criminal Judgeships, the State Attorney Offices needs a total of 76 staff at a cost of \$8.7 million.
- There is a direct workload correlation between the number of judgeships allocation and the number of Assistant State Attorneys and legal staff required to represent the citizens of Florida.



Staffing Needs – 76 Staff for 14 Judges

- Approximately 3 Assistant State Attorney Per Judge
- Approximately 2 Attorney support
- Numbers were determined by a survey of all circuits





VOCA
FUNDING

Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA)- \$8 million

This federal funding continues to diminish and can no longer be a reliable source of funding for our Victim Services programs.

\$8 million is required within general revenue to allow us to become fully funded off state resources.





DUE
PROCESS
DEFICIT

Due Process

This issue is within the Justice Administrative Commission budget and the FPAA is in full support of this critical item. Due Process funding covers the expenses that are incurred for case prosecution and investigation. It is projected that funding will be \$2.5 million short for fy26/27 (this appropriation was last adjusted in 2017).





We look forward to working with you this session and serving the people of the State of Florida.

PUBLIC DEFENDER



Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget Presentation

Thank you
for your
support!!!

PUBLIC DEFENDERS ARE ON THE FRONTLINE OF OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM

**WE ARE THE FIRST APPOINTED TO EVERY TYPE OF CRIMINAL CASE
AND CERTAIN CIVIL MATTERS:**

- **DEATH PENALTIES**
- **FELONIES**
- **MISDEMEANORS**
- **JUVENILE DELINQUENCY**
- **CRIMINAL CONTEMPT**
- **SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR/JIMMY RYCE**
- **MENTAL HEALTH CASES: BAKER ACTS, MEDICATION HEARINGS**
- **STATE HOSPITAL CONTINUED COMMITMENT HEARINGS**

PUBLIC DEFENDERS ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM

**WE PERFORM CORE FUNCTIONS IN EVERY COURTHOUSE
ACROSS THE STATE ON A DAILY BASIS:**

- **DUTIES MANDATED BY THE CONSTITUTION**
- **CRUCIAL TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION
OF JUSTICE**
- **EQUAL PARTNERS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM ALONG
WITH THE COURTS AND STATE ATTORNEYS**
- **EQUIVALENT TO FIRST RESPONDERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 STATEWIDE STATISTICS

- TRIAL LEVEL CASELOAD:
 - STATEWIDE NEW CASES ASSIGNED: 563,361
 - STATEWIDE NEW CLIENTS REPRESENTED: 475,819
 - STATEWIDE CONFLICT RATE: < 8%
 - STATEWIDE APD TURNOVER RATE: 20%

These are new cases/clients ONLY and do not include cases carried over from one Fiscal Year to the next

STATEWIDE BUDGET FACTS

20 INDEPENDENT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICES WITH 20 INDIVIDUAL BUDGETS

- FISCAL YEAR 25/26 STATEWIDE BUDGET TOTALS:
 - \$342 MILLION AT THE TRIAL LEVEL
 - GR: \$291 MILLION
 - TRUST FUND: \$51 MILLION
 - USE OF TRUST FUND AUTHORITY IS CONTINGENT ON AVAILABLE CASH COLLECTION PER INDIVIDUAL CIRCUIT
 - \$25 MILLION GR AT THE APPELLATE LEVEL
- 2945.5 TOTAL FTEs STATEWIDE
 - 57% OF FTEs ARE ATTORNEY POSITIONS (1682.5)
 - NEARLY 98% OF GR FUNDING IS DEDICATED TO SALARIES AND BENEFITS

FPDA BUDGET PRIORITY REQUEST #1

- **INCREASE THE BASE MINIMUM STARTING SALARY FOR ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDERS TO \$80,000 IC# 4240A40**
 - **APPROXIMATE REQUEST IS \$14 MILLION (includes benefits)**
 - **INCREASE IS ESSENTIAL FOR ATTORNEY RECRUITMENT**
 - **THE STATE CONTINUES TO ENCOUNTER DRASTIC ECONOMIC CHANGES AND INFLATION**
 - **ALIGNS THE GAA CLOSER TO THE ACTUAL STARTING SALARIES BEING PAID**

FPDA BUDGET PRIORITY REQUEST #2

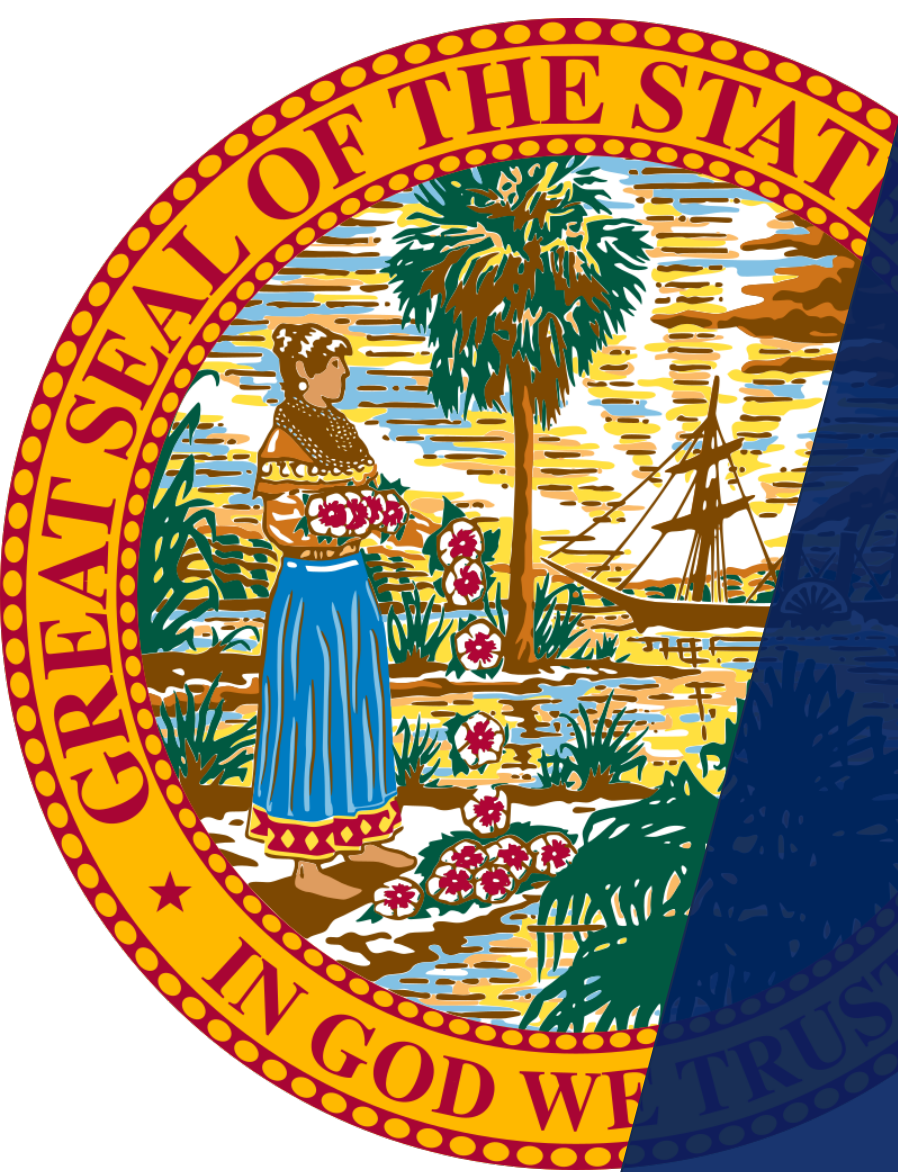
- **INCREASE GENERAL REVENUE FUNDING IN SALARIES AND BENEFITS TO 55% OF THE STATE ATTORNEY WITHIN THE SAME CIRCUIT IC# 5001400**
- **BENEFITS 8 CIRCUITS: 4TH, 5TH, 6TH, 7TH, 12TH, 17TH, 18TH, & 20TH**
- **APPROXIMATE REQUEST IS \$17 MILLION GR**
- **WILL BEGIN TO ALLEVIATE FUNDING DISPARITIES IN THE MOST UNDERFUNDED CIRCUITS**

FPDA BUDGET PRIORITY REQUEST #3

- **STAFFING AND FUNDING FOR INCREASED WORKLOAD DUE TO NEW JUDGEShips IC# 5100800**
- **FULLY FUNDING NEW COURTROOMS ACROSS THE STATE WITH ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDERS AND SUPPORT STAFF**
- **BENEFITS 11 CIRCUITS: 4TH, 5TH, 6TH, 8TH, 9TH, 10TH, 11TH, 12TH, 13TH, 14TH, & 20TH**
- **APPROXIMATE REQUEST IS \$6 MILLION AND 28 FTEs**

QUESTIONS??

Hon. Stacy A. Scott, FPDA President
scotts@pdo8.org



Offices of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel

FY 26-27 Budget

Candice K. Brower
Regional Counsel, First Region



CRIMINAL CASES ASSIGNED TO OFFICE

- Criminal Cases
- Felony Cases
- Circuit Criminal Appeals
- Misdemeanor Cases
- Criminal Traffic Cases
- County Criminal Appeals
- Chapter 316 Cases Punishable by Imprisonment
- Ancillary Municipal Ordinances
- Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Re-Sentencing cases
- Primary Municipal Ordinances by Contract
- 3.850 Post Conviction Motions
- 3.800 Correction, Modification or Reduction Motions

...all of this, along with Death Penalty Cases,
Death Penalty Re-sentencing



Offices of Criminal Conflict
& Civil Regional Counsel



CIVIL CASES ASSIGNED TO OFFICE

- Chapter 39 Dependency Cases
- Chapter 39 Termination of Parental Rights Cases
- Chapter 744 Guardianship Cases
- Chapter 393 Developmental Disability Guardianships
- Chapter 397 Involuntary Commitment Cases (Marchman Acts)
- Chapter 415 Adult Protective Services Cases
- Chapter 743 Removal Minor Nonage Disability Cases
- Chapter 392 Tuberculosis Control Cases
- Chapter 984 Children and Families in Need of Services Cases
- Chapter 63 Adoption Proceedings
- Chapter 390 Parental Notice of Abortion Act Cases
- “Jimmy Ryce” Act cases
- Marchman and Baker Acts
- Court Monitors
- Appeal Cases Related to All Above Civil Matters



Offices of Criminal Conflict
& Civil Regional Counsel

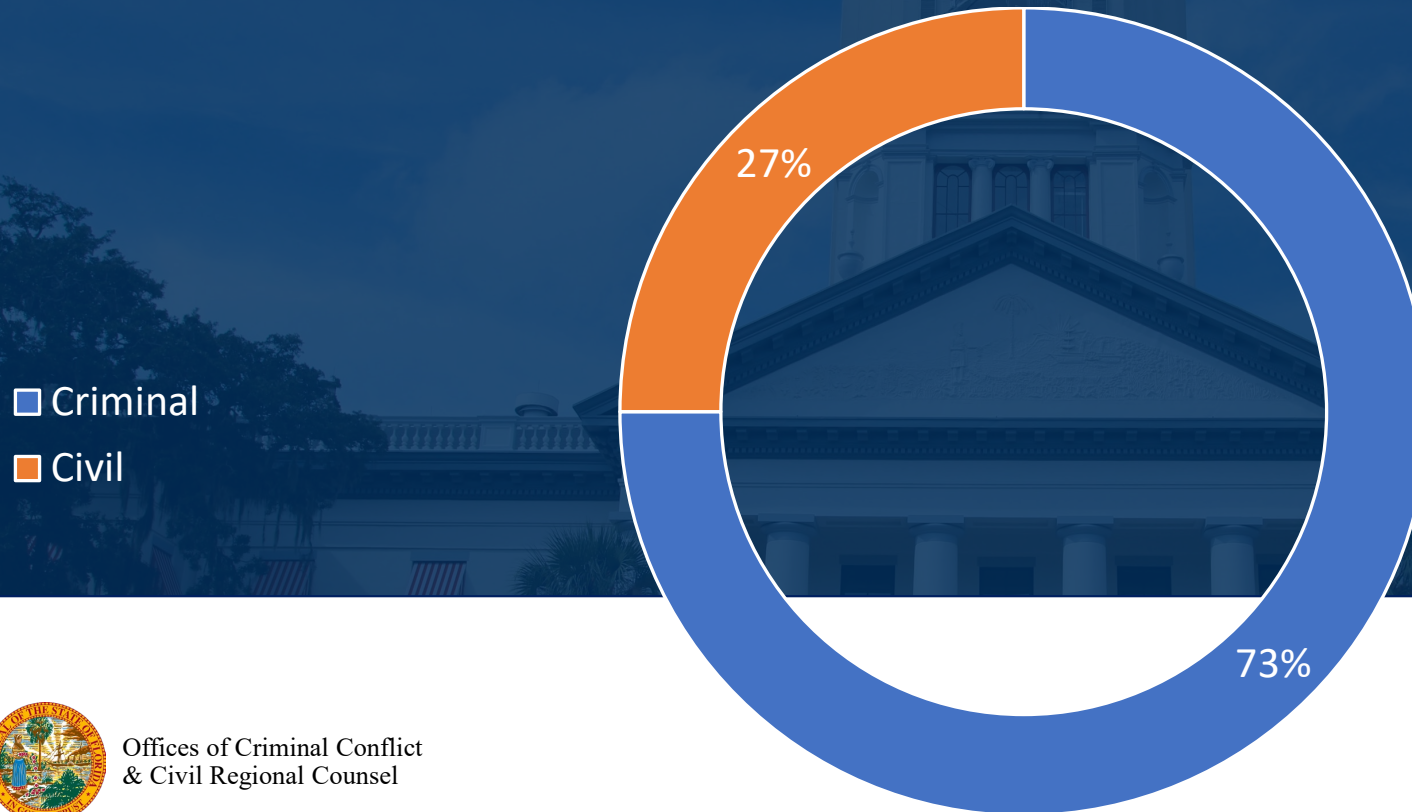
REGIONAL COUNSELS HAVE REDUCED SPENDING AND SAVED THE STATE OF FLORIDA

426 Million



Offices of Criminal Conflict
& Civil Regional Counsel

Regional Counsels were appointed to 56,100 cases in 2024



Offices of Criminal Conflict
& Civil Regional Counsel



Combined Priorities For Fiscal Year 2026-2027



Senior management
services for attorney
supervisors



Raise minimum pay
rate for attorneys to
\$63,000



Additional attorney
positions due to
increase in judges



Include Regional
Counsels in judicial
related office pay
adjustments

RATE FOR MINIMUM PAY OF \$63,000 FOR ATTORNEYS

Regional Counsel Map

Region 1: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 8th, & 14th Circuit

Region 2: 6th, 10th, 12th, 13th, & 20th Circuit

Region 3: 11th & 16th Circuit

Region 4: 15th, 17th, & 19th Circuit

Region 5: 5th, 7th, 9th, & 18th Circuit



- The State Attorneys and Public Defenders hire at competitive pay that we can not match with our minimum pay rate.
- \$44,125 is the current minimum for RC attorneys which no attorney can be hired at that rate.
- This will mostly be a rate change. We currently have very few attorneys below the \$63,000 pay rate. There will be minimal compression issues.

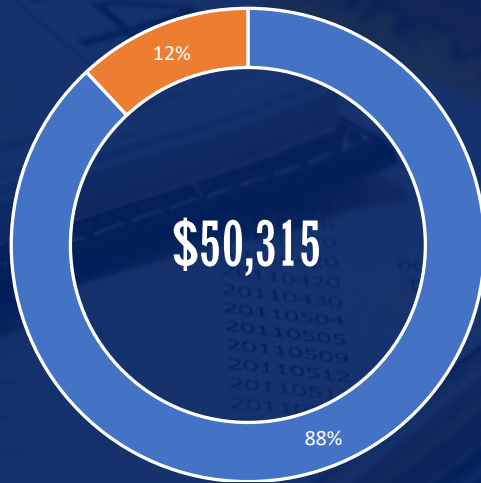


Offices of Criminal Conflict
& Civil Regional Counsel

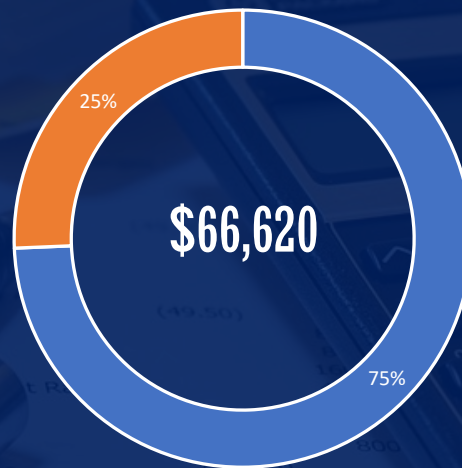
COMPARISON OF REGIONAL COUNSEL BENEFITS vs PD & SA

Base Minimum Pay & Retirement Benefits

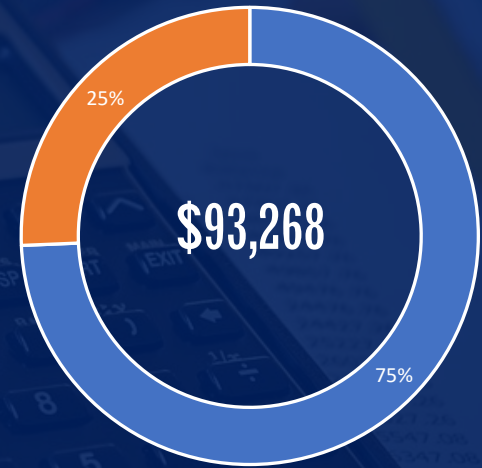
Base Pay Retirement



Current Benefits for
ARCs



Current Benefits for
APDs



Current Benefits for
ASAs



INCLUSION IN JRO ATTORNEY PAY ADJUSTMENTS

Same job, same duties...

tax-payer funded competition between JRO's is created and morale is negatively affected when not included in pay adjustments.

Thank you for including us in last year's raises and discretionary funds, but we ask you to consider minimum pay rates to continue our mission of saving taxpayers' dollars while providing exceptional representation.



Offices of Criminal Conflict
& Civil Regional Counsel



Offices of Criminal Conflict
& Civil Regional Counsel

“Continue to invest in this legislative success. \$400 million saved and counting...”

Capital Collateral Regional Counsels

Legislative Budget Request 2026-2027

Capital Collateral Regional Councils

- Florida Statute 27.702 requires the Capital Collateral Regional Councils (CCRCs) to represent death sentenced inmates in the state and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court, until relief is granted or the sentence of execution is carried out.
- There are three offices, North, Middle and South and cases are assigned by the Florida Supreme Court after the direct appeal and are based on the jurisdictions of the Federal District Courts.
- CCRC offices employ a team concept of assigning a first and second chair attorney and investigator to each case as it proceeds through the postconviction process.

The Total General Revenue budget request for all CCRC offices combined for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is \$1,283,764.92.

- While each CCRC office face similar problems, each region has its own unique issues as it relates to the budget. Significantly, both the Capital Collateral Regional Counsels for the Northern and Middle Regions have experienced an increase in caseload, while the CCRC-South has experienced challenges due to a continued rise in cost of living.

CCRC-North

- **\$405,873 (recurring) Additional Workload (Salary and Benefits)**
- **\$180,000 (recurring) Additional General Revenue (Case Related Costs)**
- **\$15,121.92 (recurring) Rental Increase**

CCRC-North has experienced a 50% increase in caseload since FY 2020-21. CCRC-North is requesting 3 additional positions to handle the 50% increase in caseload since the beginning of FY20-21, as well as the new capital postconviction cases that CCRC-North is anticipating this current fiscal year. The three positions are lead attorney, second-chair attorney, and investigator. The total amount of salary and benefits requested is \$405,873. Additionally, CCRC-North anticipates \$180,000 would be needed in additional Case Related funding in General Revenue to properly and adequately review and represent the additional CCRC-North cases.

CCRC-Middle

- **\$281,780 (recurring) Additional Workload (Salary and Benefits)**
- **\$32,920 (recurring) Rental Increase**
- **\$75,000 (recurring) Additional General Revenue (Case Related Costs)**
- **\$81,166 (recurring) Competitive Area Differential**

CCRC-Middle has seen an increase in case assignments, new cases having more than doubled. Due to the increased workload associated with these significant increases CCRC-M requests an additional \$281,780.00 in salary and benefits in order to reclassify two existing vacant positions and hire two additional attorneys. To further address the increase in workload, CCRC-Middle is requesting \$75,000 in case related costs.

CCRC-South

- **\$211,904 (recurring) Competitive Area Differential**

Last year, the legislature recognized the high cost of living in South Florida, providing for a Competitive Area Differential (CAD) with substantial increases in salary and benefits for State Attorney Offices in the **6th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 20th** circuits. Every state attorney circuit within the jurisdictional boundaries of CCRC-South received the CAD. CCRC-South competes with other similarly situated state agencies, including the state attorney offices within CCRC-South's jurisdiction, for legal, investigative and support staff talent. Appropriating a competitive area differential to every state attorney office in the South Florida area, while not funding a similar increase to CCRC-South, creates an unequal playing field further hindering CCRC-South's ability to recruit, and retain, critical staff.



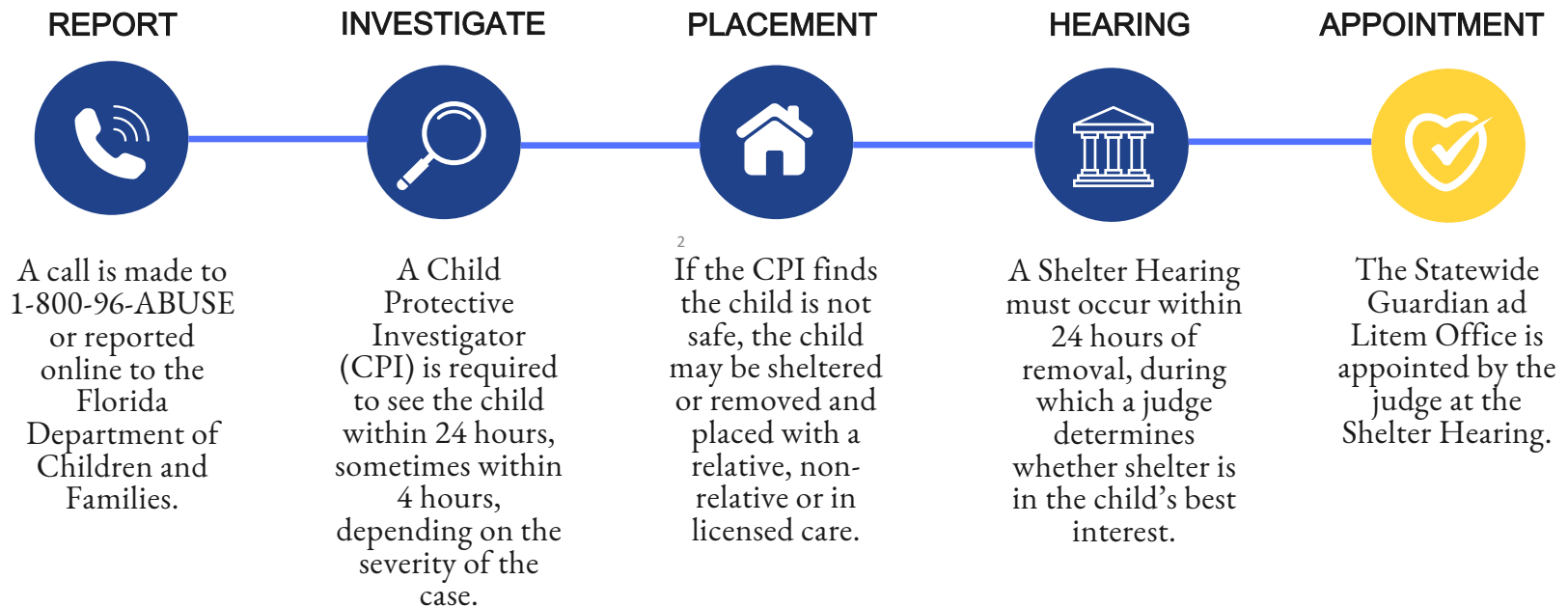
**STATEWIDE
GUARDIAN
AD LITEM
OFFICE**



Representing Florida's Abused, Abandoned, and Neglected Children in the Court and Community

Senate Appropriations Committee
on Criminal and Civil Justice
October 8, 2025

How do children become part of the Florida dependency system?





STATEWIDE
**GUARDIAN
AD LITEM**
OFFICE

In 2024, the Statewide
Guardian ad Litem Office
represented over

31,500
children.



Every child is assigned a:

- ✓ Guardian ad Litem Attorney.
- ✓ Guardian ad Litem Child Welfare Professional.
- ✓ Trained and certified Guardian ad Litem Volunteer or pro bono attorney, **if one is available**



STATEWIDE
GUARDIAN
AD LITEM
OFFICE



LET'S CELEBRATE!

The Statewide Guardian ad
Litem Office has helped more
than

1,250

teens identify a mentor.

But there is more to do...

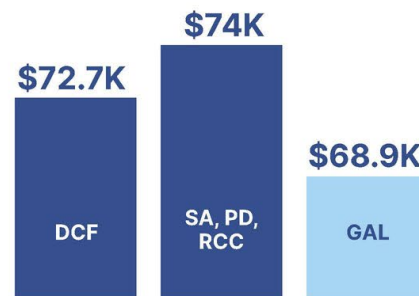
CLOSING THE PAY GAP TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN SKILLED PROFESSIONALS

- ✓ Our staff work tirelessly to represent Florida's children — but **lower pay makes it harder to hold on to them.**
- ✓ **Lack of attorney raises** from 2022 to 2025 has contributed to higher turnover and vacancies within the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office.
- ✓ **Turnover is rising among child advocate managers:** 19.8% to 25.3% in 2 years

GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS SPECIFICALLY FOR ATTORNEY SALARY INCREASES (2022-2025)

Agency / Entity	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Department of Children & Families (DCF)	\$3.4M	–	–	\$1.1M	\$4.5M
Justice Administration Commission (JAC)	–	\$20.9M	–	\$12.6M	\$33.5M
State Attorneys (SA)	–	✓	–	✓	✓
Public Defenders (PD)	–		–		
Regional and Criminal Counsels (RCC)	–		–		
Guardian ad Litem (GAL)	\$0	\$0	–	\$0	\$0

SENIOR ATTORNEY CURRENT AVERAGE SALARY COMPARISON



MANAGING ATTORNEY CURRENT AVERAGE SALARY COMPARISON



THE CHALLENGE

CLOSING THE PAY GAP TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN SKILLED PROFESSIONALS

The Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office **aims to stay competitive with peer agencies by reducing and/or moderating salary disparities.** Rising vacancies and turnover are putting added strain on existing staff and limiting recruitment in key roles.



ATTORNEYS: On average earn \$3,500 less and nearly 50% of vacancies are attorney positions.



CHILD ADVOCATE MANAGERS: Certified CAMs earn \$8,500 less and turnover rose from 19.8% to 25.3% in two years.



RECRUITMENT: Lower pay limits qualified applicants in smaller labor pools.



RETENTION: Staff leave for higher pay at sister agencies, CBCs or private practice.



THE FIX

STABILIZING ATTORNEY SALARIES

- ▶ Attorneys: \$60,000
- ▶ Senior Attorneys: \$70,000
- ▶ Managing Attorneys: \$80,000

REQUEST: \$455,512

CHILD ADVOCATE MANAGER CERTIFICATION PAY

- ▶ Add \$1,500 salary increase after certification + 1 year service
- ▶ Recognizes professional achievement and reduces turnover

REQUEST: \$661,635



STATEWIDE
**GUARDIAN
AD LITEM**
OFFICE

Representing Florida's Abused, Abandoned, and Neglected Children in the Court and Community

8

Executive Director
Dennis W. Moore

www.guardianadlitem.org



Agency Legislative Budget Request Fiscal Year 2026-27

Secretary Matt Walsh, MSW
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Senate Appropriations Committee on Criminal
and Civil Justice
October 8th, 2025

Current Fiscal Year Budget and Legislative Budget Request Overview

Total Agency Budget FY 2025-2026	\$762.5 million
General Revenue	\$585.9 million
Trust Funds	\$176.6 million
Total FTE	3,229.50 FTE

Total Request FY 2026-27	\$925.9 million
General Revenue	\$748.3 million
Trust Funds	\$167.6 million
Total FTE	3,229.50 FTE



Residential Commitment

Capacity

- Expand and upgrade moderate-risk and secure residential programs, addressing bed shortages and outdated facilities.
 - **Total Request = \$33,227,468 (R-GR)**

Florida Scholars Academy

- Support additional teachers, staff training, and equipment needed to serve the growing population in residential commitment programs.
 - **Total Request = \$3,694,626 (R-GR)**

Residential System Stabilization

- Increase per diem rates for all moderate-risk and secure residential program contracts by 17% due to rising operational costs.
 - **Total Request = \$30,102,514 (R-GR)**



Residential Commitment

Fixed Capital Outlay

- Repair and maintain safe and healthy residential facilities throughout the state. Projects include roofing repairs, mechanical systems, plumbing systems, interior improvements, site repairs, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) assessments, as well as other routine and/or emergency maintenance and repair project needs.
 - **Moderate-Risk Fixed Capital Outlay = \$12,754,311 (NR-GR)**
 - **Secure Fixed Capital Outlay = \$9,959,538 (NR-GR)**
 - **Total Request = \$22,713,849 (NR-GR)**

Graceville Facility Renovation

- Renovate an existing vacant facility and bring the building up to code, providing 32 beds for youth awaiting placement in a residential program.
 - **Total Request = \$6,000,000 (NR-GR)**



Residential Commitment Health Services

Operational Costs for Residential Programs

- Ensure high-quality and timely medical care, reimburse contracted providers, and prevent service delays.
 - **Total Request = \$5,350,000 (R-GR)**

Complex Medical Needs

- Ensure timely access to nursing care, one-on-one supervision, and specialized treatments for youth in residential programs with complex medical needs.
 - **Total Request = \$653,201 (R-GR)**



Detention Services

Fixed Capital Outlay

- Repair and maintain safe and healthy detention centers throughout the state. Projects include roofing repairs, mechanical systems, plumbing systems, interior improvements, site repairs, ADA assessments, as well as other routine and/or emergency maintenance and repair project needs.
 - **Total Request = \$24,240,784 (NR-GR)**

Broward Detention Center Replacement

- Construct a 45,000 sq. ft. detention center in Broward County following architectural planning and site preparation appropriations in previous two fiscal years. Funding covers construction, design, and a 10% contingency.
 - **Total Request = \$ 41,280,861 (NR-GR)**

Uniforms for Staff and Youth

- Covers Class A uniforms for 1,363 staff members and three sets of uniforms for 1,000 youth in detention centers.
 - **Total Request = \$1,329,804**
 - **General Revenue = \$664,902**
 - **Trust fund - \$664,902**



Probation and Community Supervision

Detention Screening Operations

- Support staff, contracted security services, and 24/7 intake and case processing for youth in across eight judicial circuits in accordance with Chapter 985, Florida Statutes.
 - **Total Request = \$4,558,020 (R-GR)**

Fixed Capital Outlay

- Repair and maintain safe and healthy probation facilities throughout the state. Projects include roofing repairs, mechanical systems, plumbing systems, interior improvements, site repairs, ADA assessments, as well as other routine and/or emergency maintenance and repair project needs.
 - **Total Request = \$3,045,367 (NR-GR)**



Information Technology

Information Technology Security Hardening Platform

- Continue protections for users, devices, and the Department's network, enhancing cybersecurity and supporting multifactor authentication.
 - **Total Request = \$538,290 (R-GR)**

Florida Planning, Accounting, and Ledger Management (PALM) Readiness

- Ensure adequate contracted and OPS resources across multiple bureaus to achieve a successful transition.
 - **Total Request = \$852,816 (NR-GR)**

Information Technology Staff Augmentation

- Support recovery, remediation, and long-term efforts to strengthen the Department's network and cybersecurity.
 - **Total Request = \$250,000 (R-GR)**

Cyber Security Enhancement

- Endpoint management solution to collect information from every Department's network connected device in real-time and give reports on patch updates.
 - **Total Request = \$281,912 (R-GR)**



Information Technology

Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) Modernization

- Evaluate whether a cloud-based redesign or alternative solutions are the best path forward for the current nearly 30-year-old system.
 - **Total Request = \$865,000 (NR-GR)**

Infrastructure Replacement

- Allow the Department's IT staff to strategically replace aging computers each year to enhance system performance, strengthen cybersecurity, and safeguard sensitive youth data.
 - **Total Request = \$1,000,000 (R-GR)**



Department Leasing

Department Lease Costs

- Additional funding to address and mitigate rising lease costs across all programs, ensuring programs can maintain operations and facilities statewide.
 - **Total Request = \$8,356,395 (R-GR)**



Questions?

Matt Walsh, Secretary

Alex Guzman, Deputy Legislative Affairs Director

850-717-2717, Office

Alexander.Guzman@fldjj.gov

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE



FLORIDA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

As a recap of our September 12th, 2025, board meeting, the following budgetary items were discussed and will be priorities the association will support and lobby for. The order of the issues listed do not indicate the importance of the issue.

FPAA Underfunded Circuits (Issue code 30000080) \$35.6 M

An underfunded circuit is defined as a circuit whose actual percentage of general revenue funding is below its general revenue allocation based on the funding formula. The funding formula is the agreed upon formula that is comprised of population, arrests, DUI citations, and prison admissions for homicide and robbery to determine the allocation of funding. Currently there are 12 circuits that meet the definition of being underfunded. Resolving this underfunding problem cannot be remedied by simply reallocating or redistributing current funding allocations, which would negatively impact and endanger public safety in the circuits that have not been identified as underfunded.

Based on current 25-26 GAA, below is a recap of the effected underfunded circuits:

Circuit	GR Initial Appropriation 25-26	% of GR	FF 24-25	Diff	\$ diff	Cost to fund underfunded	%
4	31,615,162	6.22%	7.66%	1.44%	(7,311,911)	(7,311,911)	20.35%
13	31,449,860	6.19%	7.32%	1.13%	(5,747,049)	(5,747,049)	16.00%
10	18,226,392	3.59%	4.41%	0.83%	(4,193,821)	(4,193,821)	11.67%
5	22,906,099	4.51%	5.28%	0.77%	(3,932,205)	(3,932,205)	10.95%
12	17,493,772	3.44%	4.20%	0.76%	(3,869,159)	(3,869,159)	10.77%
9	36,494,401	7.18%	7.72%	0.54%	(2,732,508)	(2,732,508)	7.61%
20	27,139,050	5.34%	5.81%	0.47%	(2,397,374)	(2,397,374)	6.67%
19	13,918,513	2.74%	3.14%	0.40%	(2,019,364)	(2,019,364)	5.62%
15	30,348,223	5.97%	6.23%	0.26%	(1,328,300)	(1,328,300)	3.70%
7	24,336,114	4.79%	5.04%	0.25%	(1,288,084)	(1,288,084)	3.59%

16	5,741,730	1.13%	1.25%	-	(609,780)	(609,780)	1.70%
3	6,679,080	1.31%	1.38%	-	(332,987)	(332,987)	0.93%
2	11,396,543	2.24%	2.27%	-	(160,070)	(160,070)	0.45%

Judgeships:

There is a direct correlation between the number of judges allocated within a circuit and the number of Assistant State Attorneys required to represent the citizens of Florida. When a new judgeship is created, the effect on the State Attorney's Office is not just one of Assistant State Attorney staffing, but a "prosecution team" that is necessary to meet the workload demands.

Victim of Crime Act (VOCA):

As federal funding continues to diminish, and this can no longer be a reliable source of funding for our Victim Services programs. \$8 million is required within general revenue to allow us to become fully funded off state resources.

Items of Support and Further Review:

Special Risk Class:

Florida Statue 121.0515 established a "Special Risk Class" within the Florida Retirement System. This class is designated for employees in specific job classifications such as: law enforcement, who face physical and mental challenges that could impact their ability to continue performing their duties. Members of this class receive additional retirement credit per years of service, thus, compensating them for the unique demands of their jobs. Assistant State Attorneys (ASAs) are not included in this class designation. As Assistant State Attorneys are working directly with many of these classes, we strongly believe it is only appropriate that they receive the same retirement compensation, thereby increasing their retirement benefit to 3%.

Due Process:

Within the Justice Administrative Commission budget, an LBR issue has been submitted to increase the State Attorney Offices Due Process funding by \$2.5 million. FY25/26 funding is \$10,266,646, spending trends indicate total expenditures for FY26/27 will be approximately \$12,766,646, leaving a shortfall of funding of \$2,500.000.

B) Amendment to statute 119.071 (4):

Exempting non-legal support staff from public records requirements.

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Meeting Date

10-8-25

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Criminal & Civil Justice App.

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

A/Hon "Rip" Colvin

Phone

850-488-2415

Address

227 N. Bronough St., Ste 2100

Email

rip.colvin@justiceadain.org

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☒

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

JAC

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf](#) [flsenate.gov](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Phone

Address

Email

Street

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☒

For

☐ Against

☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐ In Support

☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf](#) ([flsenate.gov](#))

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Regional Counsel Budget
Bill Number or Topic Prisoners

10/8/25
Meeting Date

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Appropriations on Crim + Civil Justice
Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Candice Brower Phone _____

Address 227 N. Bronough St. Email Candice.brower@cs1FL.com
Street

Tallahassee FL
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☒ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Budget - P.D.s

10/8/25

Meeting Date

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Criminal + Civil Just.

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Hon. Stacy A. Scott

Phone

352-338-7386

Address

151 SW 2nd Ave

Email

scotts@pd08.org

Street

Gainesville FL 32601

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☒

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☒

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

10/8/25

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

LBK Presentation

Bill Number or Topic

Appropriations on Criminal & Civil Justice

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Matt Walsh

Phone 850-717-2701

Address 2737 Centerview Dr.

Email Matt.Walsh@fldj.gov

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32399

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

FL Department of
Juvenile Justice

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf](#) [flsenate.gov](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

10/8/2025

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

CRIMINAL JUSTICE APPOINTMENT

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

BRIAN S. KAMMER

Phone

352-571-4370

Address

120 WEST UNIVERSITY AVE

Street

Email

KAMMERB@JAOB.ORG

GAINESVILLE

City

FL

State

32601

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☒

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:



I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Meeting Date

10/8/25

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

App on Criminal and Civil Justice

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Suzanne Keffer

Phone

954 713 1284

Address

110 SE 6th St, Ste 701

Email

keffers@ccsr.state.fl.us

Street

Fort Lauderdale FL 33301

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☒

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Orders of Protection

Bill Number or Topic

10/8/25

Meeting Date

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Dana McCool

Phone

386-837-0025

Address

1585 Oldsmar Terrace

Email

DMCCOOL@FoundationforFreedom.org

Street

De Hond

City

FL

State

32725

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☒

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☒

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

Foundation for Freedom

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf flsenate.gov](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Committee on Criminal and
Civil Justice, *Chair*
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations
Appropriations Committee on Health and
Human Services
Criminal Justice
Ethics and Elections
Rules

SENATOR ILEANA GARCIA

36th District

October 6th, 2025

The Honorable Jonathan Martin

Chair, Committee on Criminal Justice

510 Knott Building

404 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chair Martin,

Senator Garcia respectfully requests an excused absence from the October 7th, 2025, meeting of the Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nashaly Albaladejo Torres

Nashaly Albaladejo Torres

Legislative Aide to Senator Ileana Garcia

REPLY TO:

☐ 2828 Coral Way, Suite 208, Miami, Florida 33145 (305) 442-6841

☐ 314 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5036

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

BEN ALBRITTON
President of the Senate

JASON BRODEUR
President Pro Tempore



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Education Pre-K - 12, *Chair*
Education Postsecondary, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations Committee on Criminal and
Civil Justice
Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
Criminal Justice
Fiscal Policy
Rules

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

SENATOR COREY SIMON

3rd District

October 6th, 2025

The Honorable Ileana Garcia

Chair, Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice
201 The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chair Garcia,

Senator Simon respectfully requests an excused absence from the October 8th, 2025, meeting of the Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Huddleston

Stephen Huddleston
Legislative Aide to Senator Corey Simon

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 37

Case No.:

Type:

Caption: Senate Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice

Judge:

Started: 10/8/2025 11:01:00 AM

Ends: 10/8/2025 12:27:28 PM

Length: 01:26:29

11:01:00 AM	Sen. Martin (Chair)
11:02:32 AM	Tab 1
11:03:01 AM	Brian Kramer, State Attorney (8th Judicial Circuit)
11:07:02 AM	Sen. Martin
11:08:05 AM	B. Kramer
11:12:03 AM	Sen. Osgood
11:12:17 AM	B. Kramer
11:12:26 AM	Sen. Osgood
11:12:57 AM	B. Kramer
11:13:20 AM	Sen. Osgood
11:13:43 AM	Sen. Martin
11:13:47 AM	Sen. Smith
11:13:50 AM	B. Kramer
11:14:10 AM	Sen. Martin
11:14:29 AM	B. Kramer
11:14:54 AM	Stacy Scott, Public Defender (8th Judicial Circuit)
11:15:25 AM	Sen. Martin
11:24:07 AM	Sen. Polsky
11:24:11 AM	S. Scott
11:24:48 AM	Sen. Martin
11:26:16 AM	Sen. Osgood
11:26:21 AM	S. Scott
11:26:42 AM	Sen. Martin
11:27:40 AM	S. Scott
11:27:48 AM	Sen. Martin
11:28:33 AM	S. Scott
11:28:36 AM	Sen. Martin
11:28:48 AM	Sen. Osgood
11:28:50 AM	S. Scott
11:29:05 AM	Rip Colvin, Executive Director, Justice Administrative Commission
11:29:25 AM	Sen. Martin
11:33:25 AM	Sen. Polsky
11:33:34 AM	R. Colvin
11:33:40 AM	Sen. Polsky
11:34:02 AM	R. Colvin
11:34:05 AM	Sen. Martin
11:34:56 AM	Sen. Polsky
11:35:00 AM	R. Colvin
11:35:08 AM	Sen. Martin
11:35:44 AM	Sen. Polsky
11:35:48 AM	R. Colvin
11:35:58 AM	Sen. Polsky
11:36:55 AM	Sen. Martin
11:37:00 AM	Sen. Osgood
11:37:03 AM	R. Colvin
11:37:20 AM	Sen. Martin
11:38:03 AM	R. Colvin
11:38:06 AM	Sen. Martin
11:39:05 AM	R. Colvin
11:39:09 AM	Sen. Martin
11:40:01 AM	R. Colvin
11:40:04 AM	Sen. Martin

11:40:07 AM	Candice Brower, Regional Conflict Counsels, Regional Counsel (1st Region)
11:40:58 AM	Sen. Martin
11:41:03 AM	C. Brower
11:41:11 AM	Sen. Martin
11:48:05 AM	C. Brower
11:48:16 AM	Sen. Martin
11:48:35 AM	C. Brower
11:48:41 AM	Sen. Martin
11:48:44 AM	C. Brower
11:49:52 AM	Sen. Martin
11:50:12 AM	Stacy Scott, Public Defender (8th Judicial Circuit)
11:50:16 AM	Sen. Martin
11:51:57 AM	Suzanne Keffer, Capital Collateral Regional Counsels (South)
11:52:04 AM	Sen. Martin
11:58:47 AM	S. Keffer
11:58:55 AM	Sen. Martin
11:58:58 AM	Dennis Moore, Executive Director, Statewide Guardian Ad Litem
11:59:04 AM	Sen. Martin
12:02:41 PM	D. Moore
12:02:48 PM	Sen. Martin
12:02:52 PM	D. Moore
12:02:55 PM	Sen. Martin
12:02:58 PM	Matt Walsh, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Justice
12:03:04 PM	Sen. Martin
12:16:25 PM	M. Walsh
12:16:36 PM	Sen. Martin
12:16:38 PM	M. Walsh
12:16:41 PM	Sen. Martin
12:17:28 PM	Sen. Yarborough
12:17:33 PM	M. Walsh
12:17:40 PM	Sen. Yarborough
12:18:12 PM	Sen. Martin
12:18:18 PM	Sen. Yarborough
12:18:29 PM	Sen. Martin
12:18:34 PM	Sen. Osgood
12:18:38 PM	M. Walsh
12:19:09 PM	Sen. Martin
12:19:17 PM	M. Walsh
12:19:56 PM	Sen. Osgood
12:20:25 PM	M. Walsh
12:21:11 PM	Sen. Osgood
12:21:53 PM	M. Walsh
12:22:36 PM	Sen. Martin
12:22:44 PM	Sen. Osgood
12:23:24 PM	M. Walsh
12:24:14 PM	Sen. Osgood
12:24:22 PM	M. Walsh
12:24:25 PM	Sen. Martin
12:25:08 PM	M. Walsh
12:25:13 PM	Sen. Martin
12:25:37 PM	Dana McCool, Foundation to Freedom
12:27:17 PM	Sen. Martin